

gratefully salute our Nation's senior citizens—the majority of whom are healthy and active—we also recognize those older Americans who need special assistance.

Through the United States Administration on Aging, and through the vast network of State and regional agencies on aging, our Nation is working to provide senior citizens with the opportunities and services that they need and deserve. Many of our efforts are designed to assist elderly Americans who do not have a family member to help care for them. We are also working to provide support to older Americans who serve as primary caregivers for an ill or disabled spouse, parent, or other elderly relative. These efforts underscore our respect for older Americans and our determination to ensure that they are able to live with dignity, comfort, and security.

In honor of those who have given so much to succeeding generations, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 181, has designated August 18, 1991, as "National Senior Citizens Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim August 18, 1991, as National Senior Citizens Day. I call on all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in honor of our Nation's senior citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6322 of August 15, 1991

National Sarcoidosis Awareness Day, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Sarcoidosis, a disease that affects many of our fellow citizens and people around the world, remains shrouded in mystery. Skin-related symptoms of this chronic, multi-system disease were first recognized more than 100 years ago; however, the effects of sarcoidosis on other bodily organs were not observed until the first quarter of this century. Today researchers are still trying to learn more about the cause and the nature of this affliction.

Sarcoidosis can strike people of all races and of all ages, but, according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, it is most common among black Americans who are between the ages of 20 and 40. While no cause has yet been identified, it is thought that heredity predisposes some individuals to the disease. Intensive research during the past decade has not only supported this belief but also en-

abled physicians to diagnose and to manage sarcoidosis more effectively.

Today researchers at both the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute are leading studies on the etiology, diagnosis, and treatment of sarcoidosis. On this occasion, we recognize their work and that of other concerned physicians and scientists throughout the United States. We also salute the victims of sarcoidosis who demonstrate great courage and determination in their efforts to cope with the disease; and we pay tribute to their family members and to other concerned Americans who are engaged in grass-roots efforts to promote awareness of sarcoidosis, as well as improved treatment and support for its victims.

To focus national attention on sarcoidosis, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 309, has designated August 29, 1991, as "National Sarcoidosis Awareness Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim August 29, 1991, as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Day. I invite all Americans to join in observing this day with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6323 of August 20, 1991

National Rice Month, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

A staple food for much of the world's population, rice is one of the most important grains grown today. It is cultivated in more than 100 countries and on every continent except Antarctica. Rice was cultivated in North America as early as 1696. Indeed, by the time the United States declared its independence from Great Britain, rice had become one of this country's major agricultural exports.

Today the United States is one of the world's leading exporters of rice, supplying about 20 percent of the rice in world trade. In addition, much American-grown rice has been provided to other countries through Food for Peace programs, which have helped to promote the social and economic well-being of less developed nations and provided vital sustenance to victims of disaster.

The United States Department of Agriculture reports that American growers harvested more than 7 million metric tons of rice last year. The value of this crop is important to our Nation's economy.